# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: MEIER, Alan James and
MEIER, Paul Ernest

Application No.: 09/754,073

Filed: January 3, 2001

Title: MESSAGING SYSTEM
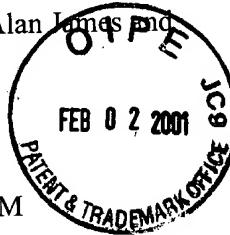
Attorney Docket No.: PIP5740

Examiner: To be Assigned

Group: To be Assigned

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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the within document(s) is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on _____1/29/01_____.

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SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

    Attached herewith, please find a certified copy of the Provisional Specification NZ 502190, the Complete Specification NZ 502190, the Provisional Specification NZ 502191, and the Complete Specification NZ 502191 from which the present application claims priority.

Respectfully submitted,

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Intellectual
Property Office
of New Zealand

CERTIFICATE

This certificate is issued in support of an application for Patent registration in a country outside New Zealand pursuant to the Patents Act 1953 and the Regulations thereunder.

I hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional Specification as filed on 5 January 2000 with an application for Letters Patent number 502190 made by WWW.INTERNET SOLUTIONS LIMITED.

Dated 17 January 2001.

Neville Harris
Commissioner of Patents
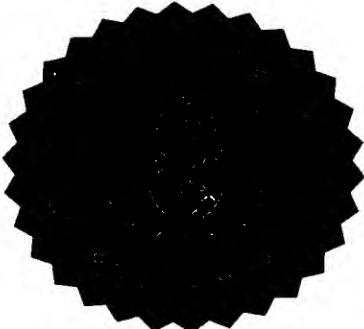
NEW ZEALAND

Patents Act 1953

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Title: Identification System

We, *WWW.INTERNET SOLUTIONS LIMITED*,
Nationality: *A New Zealand company*
Address: *2902 Quay West Apartments, 8 Albert Street, Auckland City, New Zealand*,
do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement :

- 1 -

IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to means for providing a label or other machine readable indicia capable of uniquely identifying an individual within a group.

BACKGROUND

Individuals are identified by their family name and given names, sometimes by their physical address, sometimes by a combination of their name, occupation and physical address, or sometimes an arbitrary number or combination of letters and numbers, e.g. as used on Passports, Drivers Licenses, or other government issued numbers such as tax or GST numbers. These identification systems are either ambiguous (more then one individual may have the same name or many may live at a particular r address) or if they are an arbitrary string of numbers/letters they are hard to remember and difficult to look up. The difficult of uniquely identifying an individual and ensuring that you have look up and contacted the individual you require is compounded by the multiplicity of Email addresses and numerous ISPs around the world. If you try looking up and locating the email address of a friend in another country - you will encounter many individuals with the same name (and find it hard to locate the correct one, even if your friend has a relatively uncommon family name).

There is a need for an identification system for individuals which is relatively easy for an individual to remember or use, and one which will help to locate a particular individual for addressing purposes.

OBJECT

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved identification system for individuals or one which will provide the public with a useful choice.

STATEMENT OF INVENTION

In one aspect the invention provides an identification system for persons (e.g. individuals, businesses, companies, partnerships or other entities making use of one or more addresses for the transmission of messages) which involves allocation to each person in a group a unique alphanumeric identification code, each of which codes incorporates a predetermined combination of: a unique number and an alphanumeric component.

Preferably the unique number is one which can be looked up in a published list such as a directory of telephone numbers or company or business name registration numbers or occupation registration numbers.

Alternatively the unique code could include a "vanity name" or trade mark or business name, or a mixture of letters and numbers chosen by the person. In its most preferred form the invention provides a system for combing telephone numbers (including country code and area code information) with an alphanumeric representing individuals or departments at a particular location represented by the
telephone number.

In a second aspect the invention provides an identification system for individuals which is relatively easy for an individual to remember or use, which involves allocation to each individual in a group a unique alphanumeric identification code, each of which codes incorporates a predetermined combination of:
an individuals country code;

an individuals locality (e.g. area) code;

an alphanumeric representation of at least part of an individual's name; and

at least part of an individual's listed number (e.g. a listed telephone number).

Although the component parts could be in any order it is preferred that the alphanumeric representation of the individual's name would go last.

Preferably this system is administered by an operator controlling one or more databases each of which has provision for recording the number and identity of individuals at a particular address (which inmost cases can simply be identified as a telephone number or a quasi-telephone number.

So that the databases could be interrogated to find the full name alphanumeric for a particular individual or a complete list of the names that are currently residing at that particular address.

For example the group could be all known individuals in a country or city or state. By allocating such an alphanumeric code to all known individuals it can be used a part of a messaging service.

Preferably most of the numerical components are chosen from a telephone numbering system (e.g. country code, area code, and preferably the individuals complete listed telephone number as this makes it easier to look up and identify an individual and to distinguish between individuals with similar names but different telephone numbers).

Preferably the part of the individuals name used in the identification label includes a combination of at least one letter from either the given name or the family name and at least several letters from the mainly name or given name.

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Other options include:

Use the initials of the first and surname;

Use the first name in its entirety;

Use a number of characters of the first name and the initial of the surname.

Alternatively they could use a nickname or a unique number, or combination of characters or their own designated alphanumeric combination. since this part of the label is used to distinguish between individuals at a particular address/telephone number it can be used for residential addresses and for business addresses.

In the case of business addresses there would be some predefined alphanumeric addresses such as:

Accounts

Sales

CustomerCare

Reservations

By creating an alphanumeric label of this type it can be used for a messaging system (as described in our associated patent application) or for keeping data on individuals such as bank account numbers, driving licences, passports, tax numbers or the like.

These and other aspect of the invention, which should be considered in all its novel aspects, will become apparent from the following description which is given buy way of example only.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Residential Address

Consider the population of New Zealand, it is about 4 million people. Each of these individuals can be provided with an individual alphanumeric code based on the following predetermined rule:

International telephone country code, telephone area code, local residential telephone number, then a character based string (preferably chosen from alphabetical characters) or a numeric or an alphanumeric string representing that individual.

A fictional example may be a household of 2 adults and 4 children, in Wellington New Zealand (country code 64, are code 4) each with the family name SMITH, with given names as follows:

John, Mary, Michael, Joseph, Jean, Jane.

Telephone number say 569-3578

Their individual codes would be:

64-4-569-3578-JOHS for   John Smith

64-4-569-3578-MARS for   Mary Smith

64-4-569-3578-MICS for   Michael Smith

64-4-569-3578-JOSS for   Joseph Smith

64-4-569-3578-JEAS for   Jean Smith

64-4-569-3578-JANS for   Jean Smith

The dashes have been inserted to show the constituent parts of the complete codes,

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in practice they could be omitted.

Example 2

Residential address

Instead of using a numeric identifier for the country code, the International Standard 2 letter country code could be used, so that the code for John Smith would be:
NZ-4-569-3578-JOHS for   John Smith

Example 3

Residential Address

Instead of using a complete telephone number with country and area code as the prefix of the individual code, the order could be varied so that family name and country code came first. John Smith could thus have a code based on any one of the following permutations:
SMITH-NZ-JOHN-4-569-3578 - this uses the full telephone number.
SMITH-NZ-JOHN-4-3578 - using only last 4 digits of telephone number

DISCUSSION

Many other permutations are possible, all based on the fact that most individuals can remember their own name and own telephone number.

for those individuals who do not have a telephone number o r who have an unlisted number the system operator may provide that person with a quasi-telephone number for their individual code. Such a code or the quasi-telephone number may (subject

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to the user's consent) be provided in a look up list or access to that code may be the subject of a filter or approval mechanism if it is to be looked up for email or other message delivery services.

ADVANTAGES

The preferred system uses only one rule for generating the codes for individuals (whilst allowing for individuality, e.g. use of nicknames or other idiosyncratic representations of the person's name, then the system makes it easy for people to remember and supply their individual code, allows it to be machine readable, or capable of voice recognition or voice synthesis, and moreover makes it useful as an address for emails, faxes or the like.

VARIATIONS

Many other permutations are possible, all based on a predetermined (preferably published) rule for generating the codes, and also making use of individual telephone numbers (or part thereof) as a means for distinguishing between individuals having similar names but different physical locations.

Examples include:

The basic scheme for generating codes persons of any type (e.g. individuals or entities such as businesses, organisations, schools, corporate entities, or the like) can be based on some portion of the entities telephone number, viz.:

Country code + Phone Number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

Many variations are possible including the following examples:

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or * + Country code + Phone Number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

Country code + # or * + Phone Number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

Country code + Phone Number + # or * + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

Country code + Phone Number + 1-2 Digit number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

1-2 Digit number + Country code + Phone Number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

Country code + 1-2 Digit number + Phone Number + Alpha Numeric Signifying the users name

There are many other possibilities but most of the other possibilities seem to be more annoying to use which would mean users would be far more likely to reject them. The ones above are easy to implement and simple to remember from the users point of view.

An alternative (though less preferred) system for companies could make use of a company registration number, e.g. a NZ company number or in the case of Australian companies their Australian Company Number (ACN) or Business Name Registration Number (ABRN).

An example of such as system would be:

Country Code + Unique Number (ACN, ABRN etc) + Alphanumeric

With the alpha-numeric side the following predefined types would be available:

Reservations
Accounts
Sales
CustomerCare
Despatch
Government
Legal

The last two items could be made available only to the legal profession and

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governments, providing a secure environment for document transfer and also the ability for storage of a copy of what was transmitted in case of disputes.

Finally, various other alterations and modifications may be made to the foregoing without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

PIPERS

Attorneys for

INTERNET SOLUTIONS LIMITED

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